

✓ Claim 8, line 1, please delete "any one of claims 1-7" and insert therefor

--claim 1--;

✓ Claim 10, line 1, please delete "any one of claims 1-9" and insert therefor

--claim 1--;

✓ Claim 15, line 1, please delete "claim 13 or 14" and insert therefor --claim 13--;

✓ Claim 24, line 2, please delete "any one of claims 1-18" and insert therefor

--claim 1--;

✓ Claim 25, line 2, please delete "any one of claims 1-23" and insert therefor

--claim 1--.

REMARKS

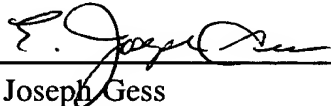
By the present Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have amended the claims to remove the multiple dependencies in the claims.

A favorable consideration on the merits is believed to be next in order, and is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: _____


E. Joseph Gess
Registration No. 28,510

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

Date: March 5, 1999